

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00189 311117Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 /038 W
-----311121Z 121487 /13

P R 31100Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7638
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0189

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR LA TH
SUBJECT: THAI AIRWAYS SUSPENDS ITS VIENTIANE ROUTE

REF A 76 VIENTIANE 1809, B 76 VIENTIANE 2263

1. MANAGER OF THAI AIRWAYS NIYOM KOSULVITR TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 31 THAT RTG HAD TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED THAI AIRWAYS FLIGHTS AS OF FEBRUARY 1 IN RESPONSE TO LAO DEMAND THAT RTG RETURN LAO PLANES AND THEIR PILOTS WHICH HAD RECENTLY ESCAPED TO THAILAND, AND LAO REQUIREMENT THAT THAI AIRWAYS TURN OVER ALL PASSENGER TICKET SALES AND CARGO ARRANGEMENT TO LAO AVIATION BY FEBRUARY 1. NIYOM ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH LAO HAD SENT A NOTE DEMANDING THE RETURN OF THE PILOTS FROM THAILAND, LPDR OFFICIALS HAD ORALLY INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT INSIST ON THIS POINT.

2. NIYOM WAS ADAMANT THAT TICKET AND CARGO SALES SHOULD NOT BE IN THE HANDS OF THE LAO GOVERNMENT. "ONCE THEY GET THE THAI AIRWAYS FOREIGN EXCHANGE, WE

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WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET OUR HANDS ON IT, SO WHY FLY HERE AT ALL." NIYOM TOLD EMBOFF THAT SHE HAD RECOMMENDED THAI AIRWAYS CLOSE ITS VIENTIANE ROUTE MANY MONTHS AGO WHEN THE LAO FIRST DEMANDED THAT ALL TICKETING BE TURNED OVER TO LAO AVIATION, AS REPORTED REF A. SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS OVERRULED AT THAT TIME BY THE THAI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

WHICH FELT THAT THE LAO WERE BLUFFING BECAUSE THEY DID NOT HAVE THE SKILLS AND FACILITIES TO ASSUME THE OPERATIONS. MEANWHILE, LAO AVIATION HAS BEEN TRAINING A CLASS IN AIRLINE TICKETING, AS REPORTED REF B.

3. NIYOM FELT IT MAY BE A LONG TIME, IF AT ALL, BEFORE THESE OUTSTANDING ISSUES CAN BE RESOLVED SO THAT THAI AIRWAYS FLIGHTS CAN BE RESUMED.

4. UNDERSTAND THAT AEROFLOT CONTINUES TO HANDLE ITS OWN TICKET SALES IN VIENTIANE, ALTHOUGH LAO AVIATION HANDLES AIR VIETNAM SALES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR ROUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENTI00189
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770033-0825
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977011/aaaaaalj.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6297b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3473987
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI AIRWAYS SUSPENDS ITS VIENTIANE ROUTE
TAGS: EAIR, LA, TH, THAI AIRWAYS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6297b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009